



August 2, 2010

Elaine M. Howle
California State Auditor
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Howle:

As an organization, we have been following the selection process of Citizens Commission for Redistricting. We would first like to commend the Applicant Review Panel for the obvious amount of time and energy that they have put into the process up to now. It is clear that the Panel members have done their best to make this as open and fair of a process as possible.

Thus it was very surprising to me and my organization that none of the proposed "standard question" set included the question regarding if the applicant for the commission was approached by an elected member or a member of their staff to apply to become a Commission member. We believe that the answer to this question is extremely relevant because it addresses the heart of Proposition 11. It seems to us that the primary of purpose of the disqualifying terms within Prop 11, are designed to disqualify political operatives.

It is our belief that not all political operatives will have been ferreted out by the standard process. It is our contention that there are a number of citizens with a strong political agenda, that purposely "fly below the radar" in regards to checks such as political contributions and appointments.

Thus we believe that it is crucial that a question relating to a relationship to elected officials, past or present and their staff is very important and should be added to the standard question list.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Paredes", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Paredes
Executive Director